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**215.66****Certifying Non-Birth Mothers as Breastfeeding Women**

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**Definition** A breastfeeding non-birth mother is a woman who is breastfeeding an infant she did not give birth to. Non-birth mothers include wet nurses, adoptive mothers, and foster mothers.

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**Policy** Certify a non-birth mother as a breastfeeding WIC participant if she meets the eligibility requirements of residency, income and nutritional risk.

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**Nutritional risk considerations** The breastfeeding non-birth mother may have her own independent nutritional risk, or be at nutritional risk because the infant she is breastfeeding is at nutritional risk.

Note: If a non-birth mother has a nutrition risk condition that contraindicates her breastfeeding an infant (e.g., substance abuse, HIV infection), provide the same guidance and education to her as provided to a birth mother.

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**Both mothers may be served** A birth mother who meets all of the eligibility criteria may receive postpartum WIC benefits if her infant is being breastfed by non-birth mother **whether or not the non-birth mother is receiving WIC services.**

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**Income eligibility considerations** If there are two separate households applying for services, determine where the infant lives for income eligibility purposes.

- Count the infant when determining the household size of the mother with whom the infant lives.
- **Both households must meet the income criteria to receive services.**

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**Policy reference** MPSF-1:WC-96-04-P: Non-Birth Mothers Certified as Breastfeeding Women

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**Data system assistance** Call the state WIC office if you need additional assistance creating records for these families.

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